

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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SUBJECT: ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM

STATE FOR CU/EE; USIA FOR IEE

REF: STATE 2992

1. IN CALL BY P&C OFFICER JANUARY 20, RECTOR SENDOV ADVISED:
 - A. SOFIA UNIVERSITY DESIRES VISITING AMERICAN PROFESSOR TO TEACH "SOMETHING SPECIAL TO AMERICA"--E.G. AMERICAN LITERATURE, AMERICAN HISTORY, GENERAL U.S. CULTURE. (EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT, SINCE GRANTEE WOULD BE ATTACHED TO ENGLISH PHILOLOGY CHAIR AND AS FIRST GRANTEE IN RENEWED PROGRAM, HE SHOULD EMPHASIZE LITERATURE, SUPPLEMENTING COURSE CONTENT WITH BROADER-GAUGED AMERICAN STUDIES.)
 - B. STUDENTS WILL COME FROM ALL UNDERGRADUATE CLASSES, BUT SENDOV NOTES THIS INCLUDES STUDENTS ON MASTER'S LEVEL IN U.S. UNIVERSITIES. GENERALLY THEY ARE GRADUATES OF ENGLISH-MEDIUM GYMNASIA; THUS BASIC ENGLISH KNOWLEDGE IS NO PROBLEM. IN ADDITION GRANTEE MAY HAVE INDIVIDUAL WORK WITH DOCTORAL CANDIDATES AND JUNIOR FACULTY.
 - C. COURSE LOAD WILL BE TWO OR THREE COURSES OF TWO OR THREE HOURS PER WEEK, DEPENDING UPON GRANTEE'S SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS AND INTERESTS.
 - D. QUESTIONS OF STIPEND, HOUSING, OTHER BENEFITS AWAIT DISCUSSION WITH PROF. RADI PARASHKEVOV, CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AT COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE, TECHNICAL PROGRESS AND HIGHER EDUCATION, THROUGH WHICH ALL

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HIGHER EDUCATION ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAMS ARE ARRANGED.

SENDOV HAS DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH PARASHKEVOV, AND SENDOV IS CONFIDENT NO PROBLEMS EXIST AND THAT GRANTEE WILL RECEIVE "AT LEAST" THE STIPEND, ETC., OF A BULGARIAN FULL PROFESSOR. SENDOV NOTES MOST POTENTIAL HOUSING IS SMALL, RELATIVE TO U.S. STANDARDS, AND THAT GRANTEE WITH LARGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN MIGHT FIND STANDARD QUARTERS SOMEWHAT CRAMPED. (EMBASSY COMMENTS: AMERICAN LECTURER WITH ONLY WIFE WOULD BE BEST SELECTION FOR POSITION; WORST SELECTION WOULD BE LECTURER WITH LARGE FAMILY (6 OR MORE DEPENDENTS). MAN WITH ONE OR TWO GRADE SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN COULD EXPECT TO HAVE ADEQUATE HOUSING. DETAILS ON SCHOOLING ARE: ENGLISH-MEDIUM GYMNASIA ACCEPT STUDENTS AT AGES 14 AND ABOVE. (FYI: NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES GRANTEE JOEL HALPERN, WHO IS PLACING TWO ELDER CHILDREN IN SUCH A GYMNASIUM IN SOFIA, ADVISES THAT THERE ONLY HUMANITIES ARE TAUGHT IN ENGLISH; OTHER SUBJECTS ARE IN BULGARIAN.) EMBASSY SPONSORED ANGLO-AMERICAN SCHOOL ACCEPTS STUDENTS THROUGH SEVENTH GRADE; HOWEVER, SCHOOL BOARD HAS DECIDED LIMIT ENROLLMENT NEXT YEAR TO 50 FROM PRESENT 57, SO ENROLLMENT BY JUNE 1 IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED. THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLDS ARE SENT ABROAD FOR SCHOOLING.

2. REFTEL, PARA 4: APOINTMENT WITH PARASHKEVOV SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 28. P&C OFFICER'S ABSENCE FROM SOFIA PRECLUDES EARLIER CALL. AS INDICATION OF BULGARIAN INTEREST, APPOINTMENT WAS CONFIRMED WITHIN ONE HOUR OF REQUEST. WE BELIEVE THERE IS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF SERIOUS INTEREST TO INITIATE RECRUITMENT BEFORE END OF MONTH.

3. REFTEL, PARA 5: SENDOV PLEASED BY DEPARTMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST IN PLACING BULGARIAN LECTURER WITH U.S. UNIVERSITY. BULGARIAN LANGUAGE, LITERATURE OR HISTORY ARE POSSIBLE SUBJECTS. THE SOONER THIS PLACEMENT CAN BE CONFIRMED, THE BETTER. ALSO, EMBASSY ASSUMES BULGARIAN GRANTEE WOULD BE INCLUDED UNDER STANDARD FULBRIGHT-HAYS PROGRAM; IE., CU FUNDS WOULD SUPPORT EXCHANGE.

4. SINCE WE BELIEVE IT USEFUL TO HAVE BULGARIAN ACCEPTANCE OF AMERICAN LECTURER IN WRITING, P&C OFFICER ASKED SENDOV WHAT FORM FORMAL NOTIFICATION SHOULD TAKE. SENDOV RECOMMENDED EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN EMBASSY AND COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HE DID NOTE THAT PARASHKEVOV HAD RAISED WITH HIM DESIRABILITY OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CULTURAL AGREEMENT BUT OF COURSE WE INTEND TO FINESSE THIS.

5. IF DEPT HAS NO OBJECTION AND PARASHKEVOV AGREES, AND ASSUMING WE OBTAIN FROM HIM CONFIRMATION OF SATISFACTORY ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN PARA 2 REFTEL, EMBASSY WILL EXCHANGE LETTERS WITH COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE ON CONDITIONS GOVERNING PRESENCE

OF AMERICAN LECTURER AT SOFIA UNIVERSITY. SUBJECTS OF REFTEL WILL
BE INCLUDED IN EXCHANGE.

6. BOTH EMBASSY AND SENDOV SEE EXCHANGE OF LECTURERS AS
POTENTIALLY STEP TOWARD FULL UNIVERSITY-TO-UNIVERSITY ARRANGEMENT.
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